

R E M A R K S

The Office Action that was mailed on March 8, 2005 was a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, which alleged that the amendment document filed on December 21, 2004 failed to amend the claims in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. Applicants' records show that on February 6, 2004, Applicants had filed a complete copy of the application to replace the originally filed copy of the application lost by the PTO, and that on July 26, 2004, Applicants had filed a complete copy of that complete copy of the application, the PTO apparently having lost its duplicate copy of the application. Applicants' records do not show an amendment document filed on December 21, 2004.

On October 10, 2002, Applicants had filed an "Amendment and Election", which was in full compliance with 37 CFR 1.121 at that time. Applicants confirm their October 10, 2002 response to the Office Action of September 10, 2002, in which Applicants elected the invention of Group I, with traverse. Applicants had traversed the requirement for restriction on the grounds that all of the inventions claimed in this application are closely related, such that their examination in a single application would not be unduly burdensome. Nevertheless, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants now cancel non-elected claims 7-18, without

Serial No. 09/869,954  
Docket No. 0425-0843P

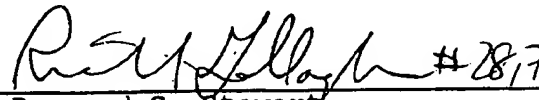
prejudice to their subject matter or to their reassertion in this or a continuing application.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he is requested to contact Richard Gallagher, Reg. No. 28,781, at (703) 205-8008.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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